Collecting Butterflies in Central Europe, July 1977 By N. J. and A. C. Derry*

My brother and I set off from home by car with provisions and a tent and spent nearly a month driving in Central Europe. Unfortunately, we were very much dependent on the weather and after a few days of healthy sunshine, rain tended to play a prominent role in the proceedings and several days, including the last three, were "washed out" by torrential downpours. Our collecting in Austria, for instance, was limited to one afternoon only, continuous rain making it pointless staying longer. Thus there are several interesting species that we hoped to see but failed to observe. However, there was some sunshine, and the following is an approximate guide to

the places we visited and butterflies observed.

Unfortunately, we appear to have been too early for some interesting species and many had only just emerged by late July. The high mountain species in particular, did not emerge until the latter half of July as shown by the wealth of these that we encountered near Pontresina (such as P. callidice, C. palaeno europome and C. phicomone) many of which had not been much in evidence before 19th July, despite our visiting suitable localities. We had anticipated that most of these would have been flying in early July. Furthermore, species such as P. mnemosyne were still on the wing, and not worn, and we saw no P. phoebus at all. Nevertheless, the holiday was a success and the total number of butterfly species seen was approximately 150.

30th June. (1) Near Laon, N.W. of Reims, France: marshy field surrounded by oak woodland. 1 & Lycaena dispar rutila Werneberg (very worn). (2) North of Langres, N. of

Dijon, France: fields rich in flowers.

1st July. (3) Near Pontarlier, S.E. of Besançon, France: marshy and flowery meadows. 2 Erebia medusa medusa S. (battered) — the only medusa medusa encountered on the trip. (4) Near Nyon, Lake Geneva, Switzerland: deciduous woodland (largely oaks). 1 ? Apatura iris L.; 2 Nordmannia

ilicis Esper.

2nd July. (5) Near Thônes, E. of Annecy, France: wooded hillside giving way to ungrazed meadows higher up. 1 & Hipparchia fagi Scopoli; several Erebia oeme H.; Mellicta parthenoides Kerferstein (abundant); 1 Maculinea arion arion L.; 1 & Plebicula thersites Cantener; 1 & Glaucopsyche alexis Poda (badly worn); 2 Spialia sertorius Hoffmannsegg; several Pyrgus malvae malvae L.; 3 Melitaea didyma Staudinger, larvae found (feeding on narrow-leaved plantain). (6) Near La Clusaz, E. of Annecy, France: scree and grassed slopes (grazed).

3rd and 4th July. (7) Mont Blanc area, Italy: north-facing and south-facing slopes. 1 & and 2 \(\varphi \) alexis; several \(\varphi \) Erebia triaria De Prunner — on south-facing grassy slopes

^{*} Limeburners, Lincoln Hill, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop, TF8 7NL.

with scattered spruce trees; a few Melitaea cinxia L.; a few & Cupido osiris Meigen; a few Pyrgus andromedae Wallengren.

4th July. (8) Col du Grand St. Bernard, Italy: south side. (9) Near Sierre, Switzerland: dry grassy slopes. A few Hippar-

chia alcyone S.; 1 N. ilicis.

5th and 6th July. (10) Simplon Pass, Switzerland: north and south sides (varied habitats). Several E. triaria; 1 fresh & Plebicula dorylas S.; Parnassius mnemosyne L. (common, with 1 9 extensively suffused with fuscous, f. melaina Honrath); 1 & Plebejus pylaon trappi Verity (fresh) — the only specimen seen on the trip; 1 & Plebicula escheri H.; 1 Erebia alberganus f. tyrsus Fruhstorfer; 1 S. sertorius; 1 Ochlodes venata f. alvinus Hoffmann.

6th July. Near Fiesch, N.E. of Brig, Switzerland: dry grassy areas among pine woodland. Very little of note seen, disappointing after seeing insects in plenty here in August 1972. 1 Parnassus appollo L.; 1 Melanargia galathea L.; 1 Lasiommata maera L.; a few Thymelicus lineola Ochsenheimer; 1

Pieris rapae L.

7th July. (11) Lukmanier Pass and nearby, Italy: south side to Camperio. 1 & Clossiana thore H. — among spruce woodland. (12) Near Biasca, N. of Bellinzona, Italy: rough ground amongst a conifer plantation. 1 M. arion arion; a few Clossiana dia L. Near Roveredo, N.E. of Bellinzona, Italy: deciduous woodland. 1 & Lopinga achine Scopoli (badly galathea; several Mellicta athalia chipped); several M. celadussa Fruhstorfer.

8th July. (13) Albula Pass area, north of St. Moritz,

Switzerland: damp grassy areas.

9th July. (14) Near Lermoos, Austria: north-facing slopes. A few Mellicta aurelia Nickerl; several Erebia manto S.; several E. oeme.

11th July. (15) Near St. Leonardo, north of Merano, Italy:

varied habitats.

11th and 12th July. (16) Brenner Pass, Italy: south-facing grassy slopes. Euphydryas cynthia alpicola Galvagni (common and especially fond of settling on Vaccinium bushes); several Mellicta asteria Freyer (fresh); 1 9 Pontia callidice H.; 3+ Erebia eriphyle tristis H.-S.; several Erebia nivalis De Lesse & Lorkovic (fresh & &).

12th July. (17) Near Laion, N.E. of Bolzano, Italy: banks of vetch by roadside (light woodland). 1 fresh ? Hipparchia

semele cadmus Fruhstorfer.

12th and 13th July. (18) Passo di Sella area, E. of Bolzano, Italy: varied habitats. 1 Erebia pluto alecto H.; 1 & G. alexis (worn); 1 P. andromedae; 2 & Plebicula amanda Schneider.

14th July. Passo di Falzarego, W. of Cortina, Italy: top of Pass. 4 & and 2 & Erebia pluto De Prunner, ranging from pluto pluto to pluto alecto. (19) Near Misurina, N.E. of Cortina, Italy: boggy fiields and spruce woodland. 1 fresh & C. thore. (20) Near Stabiziane, E. of Cortina, Italy: damp flowery meadows, bordered by spruce woodland.

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15th July. (21) East of Belluno, Italy: varied habitats. 1 perfect Limenitis populi L.; 1 Maculinea alcon rebeli Hirschke; 1 Colias crocea Geoffroy; 4 Euphydryas intermedia wolfensbergeri Frey.—scattered sightings. Near Mattarello, S. of Trento, Italy: clearing in deciduous woodland. 1 \(\frac{9}{2} \) Lycaeides idas f. opulentus Verity; 2 Polygonia c-album f. hutchinsoni L.; 2 Inachis io L.; 1 Quercusia quercus L.; 1 \(\frac{3}{2} \) O. venata; a few T. lineola.

16th and 17th July. (22) East of Lake Garda, Italy; varied habitats. 2 Strymonidia spini; several Coenonympha tullia rhodopensis f. italica Verity; Carcharodus flocciferus Zeller; many P. mnemosyne; many Erebia gorge triopes Speyer (fresh,

and especially brightly marked).

18th July. (23) Near Torbole, S.W. of Trento, Italy: rocky hillside, with rough terraced orchards. Several *Pieris mannii* Mayer; a few *S. spini*; a few *Iphiclides podalirius* L.; several *Satyrus ferula* Fabricius; 1 *Scolitantides orion* Pallas. (24) Near Madonna di Campiglio, N.W. of Trento, Italy: mixed woodland. 1 \(\rightarrow \textit{Argynnis paphia f. valesina Esper; 1 C. thore } \) (3). (25) Near Vermiglio, N.W. of Trento, Italy: rough meadows, near R. Noce. 1 \(\rightarrow \textit{P. mnemosyne; 1 \(\rightarrow \text{ and } 1 \) \(\rightarrow \text{P. amanda.} \)

19th July. (26) Near Pontresina, E. of St. Moritz, Switzerland: varied habitats. Many E. cynthia alpicola (associated with Vaccinium bushes); 1 & Mellicta varia Meyer Dür; several fresh & Erebia flavofasciata f. thiemei Bartel (local); 1 & E. pluto (transitional to oreas); 1 & Argiades glandon De Prunner; several & Polyommatus eros Ochsenheimer; 2 Colias palaeno europome Esper (fresh); many E. gorge (transitional to triopes); several Vaccinia optilete Knoch (near Vaccinium bushes); 1 M. alcon rebeli; 1 & and 1 & P. amanda; several P. callidice.

20th July. Albula Pass: see (13), grassy slopes. A few E. gorge (transitional to triopes); 2 Erebia manto pyrrhula

Frey; 1 & V. optilete; a few P. eros.

20th July. (27) Near Chiavenna, S.W. of St. Moritz, Italy: grassy clearings, in deciduous woods. 1 & Minois dryas

Scopoli; 1 S. orion.

21st July. (28) S.E. of Lugano, Switzerland: hillside. 2 & and 2 & Erebia styx triglites Fruhstorfer — rocky slopes; 1 & P. dorylas. N. of Rivera, S.W. of Bellinzona, Italy: clearing by roadside. 1 M. athalia celadussa; a few M. galathea; 1 & Heteropterus morpheus Pallas; a few O. venata.

21st and 22nd July. (29) Near Vogogna, Italy: varied

21st and 22nd July. (29) Near Vogogna, Italy: varied habitats. 1 Libythea celtis Laicharting (fresh); several H. morpheus; 1 & and 1 \(\frac{9}{2}\) Celastrina argiolus L.; 1 C. flocciferus; 1 Fabriciana adippe f. cleodoxa Ochsenheimer; several S. orion; a few I. podalirius; 1 S. ferula; 2 M. arion arion.

22nd and 23rd July. Simplon Pass: see (10). Several *Erebia* christi Raetzer (1 worn \mathfrak{P})—local; several *Erebia montana* goante Esper (only 1 \mathfrak{P}): 1 & P. dorylas; 1 Philotes baton Bergstrasser; 1 & A. glandon; 1 & P. eros; 1 Erebia aethiops Esper; several Hyponephele lycaon Kuehn; 1 & Hesperia comma L.

23rd and 24th July. Near Nyon: see (4). 2 Nymphalis polychloros L.; 2+ Apatura iris (1 $^{\circ}$) — 1 was observed feeding on umbellifers; 3+ Apatura ilia S. — 2 worn $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ and 1 fresh $^{\circ}$ (f. clytie); 3 fresh Brintesia circe Fabricius; many Q. auercus.

25th July. (30) E. of Chalon-sur-Saone, France: mixed deciduous woodland. 1 *Limenitis reducta* Staudinger; 1 O.

quercus.

KEY TO TABLE

F=Few : 0-10 specimens seen. S. & Sev.=Several: 10-20 specimens seen. C=Common : over 20 specimens seen.

Where known, exact numbers of specimens seen are given.

N.B. Figures used in the text correspond to those used in the table and they serve as abbreviations for the localities.

RHYACIA SIMULANS (HUFN.): DOTTED RUSTIC IN HAMP-SHIRE. — A single specimen of this scarce species was taken by m.v. trap at Ashurst, Hants., on 28th July, 1976. It was incorrectly identified and placed in a series of *Spaelotis ravida* (D. & S.): Stout Dart, taken at the same site. Its true identity was recently pointed out to me by Barry Goater. — J. C. A. CRAIK, 48 Whartons Lane, Ashurst, Hants.

A SECOND(?) OCCURRENCE OF ELACHIPTERA UNISETA COLL. (DIPT.: CHLOROPIDAE), A NOTABLE ADDITION TO THE KENT FAUNA. — Examination of some dead reeds (Typha) by a lake in Danson Park, Bexleyheath, about five miles east of here, on 9th March last, revealed large numbers of the common little Chloropid Elachiptera cornuta Fall. (Oscinellinae) hibernating between the leaves and stems. Among them was one smaller fly, paler and obviously different, but apparently of the same genus; this proved later to be very distinctive, especially in its coloration — the yellowish thorax having an elongate dark patch at each side. It was readily determined from Collin, 1946, Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond., 97 (5): 146, as the hitherto very rare and little-known Elachiptera uniseta Coll., described in 1939 (Ent. mon. Mag., 75: 150) on 3 & & and 2 ♀♀ bred in July 1933 from a reed-bunting's nest at Black Park, Bucks., by Mr. E. B. Basden. Mr. Collin, in his 1946 paper, stated that he had seen no further specimens. Having searched only the literature at my disposal, without finding any later record of the species, I cannot assert categorically that mine is only the second — though it appears likely. The Kentish example tallies in every respect with the description, including the critical character of the single pair of orbital bristles which distinguishes E. uniseta from the Mediterranean and Atlantic E. bimaculata Lw. The situation in which the fly was obtained on both occasions makes it probable that this is a reed-feeding species. - A. A. Allen, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London, SE3 8QG.